

Library

NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED - 31st DECEMBER, 1960.



NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
CONSTITUTION AT 31st. DECEMBER, 1960

Chairman: Mr. P.J. Amy

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. A. Metcalfe

Mr. H.T. Amy

Mr. S.G. Garnet

Mrs. N.A. Bennett

Mr. V. Hedges, J.P.

Mr. S.W. Bennett

Mr. A.F. Tucker

Mr. J.L. Everest

Mr. A.R.J. Tucker

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health.

G.M. Davidson Lobban, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.H., until
May, 1960.

J.L. Cotton, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., from
November, 1960.

The Grange, Southover, Lewes.
Telephone No:- Lewes 4282.

Public Health Inspector.

W.P. Harrison, M.R.S.H. (from 5th March, 1945)

Office Staff:

Mrs. R.K. Osborne (from 4th October, 1954)

To the Chairman and Members of the Newhaven Public Health and Housing Committee:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the state of public health and on the sanitary circumstances of Newhaven for 1960.

This report includes the period up to Dr. Lobban's death in May, 1960 and the short period from November until the end of the year following my appointment as Medical Officer of Health.

The vital statistics of the area compare very favourably with those for England and Wales and do not call for any special comment.

There was a very low incidence of infectious disease during the year. However, 1961 will probably prove to be a measles year again (as was 1959). Notification of this inevitable infectious disease now serves no useful purpose whatsoever except to provide extra work for general practitioners and public health staffs. This can be considerable when dealing with hundreds of cases. The whole system of notification of infectious diseases should be revised to bring it into line with modern medical practise.

A most important improvement in regard to enviromental hygiene was brought a stage nearer during the year. The East Side Sewerage Scheme was almost completed and when this is brought into operation there should be some improvement in the harbour pollution. However, not until a similar scheme on the West side of the harbour is operational will sewage contamination of the river and harbour be virtually eliminated.

Already progress continues to be made in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations. However, in addition to any official action that is possible, the public themselves can do a lot to raise existing standards by refusing to tolerate insanitary methods of food handling.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and support I have received from them since my appointment as Medical Officer of Health. My thanks are also due to Mr. Harrison for his valuable assistance and to other officials of the Council for their courtesy and co-operation.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J.L. COTTON.

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29906313>

SECTION I
STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	1,766
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid year 1960)	8,160
Population {1931 Census}	7,381
Population {1951 Census}	7,783
Population (1961 Census) 1st estimate	8,325
Net increase of population during year	150
Number of occupied houses 1951	2,196
Number of occupied houses 1961	2,603
Rateable Value (1st April, 1961)	£100,860
Product of penny rate	£410

(b) VITAL STATISTICS.

1. Births & Birth Rates.

<u>1. Births & Birth Rates.</u>	<u>NEWHAVEN</u> <u>U.D.</u>	<u>ENGLAND</u> <u>& WALES</u>	
Live Births	136		
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (crude)	16.7	17.1	
* Corrected birth rate	17.2		
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.1%		
Still births	0		
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	0	19.8	
Total live and still births	136		
Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	57	72	129
Illegitimate	4	3	7
	61	75	136

2. Deaths & Death Rates.

Deaths	103	
Death rate per 1,000 population (crude)	12.6	
* Corrected death rate	10.2	11.5
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	0	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	0	21.9
Maternal mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	0	
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	0	

* In order to compare death rates and birth rates in different parts of the country, the Registrar General supplies comparability factors for every district, so as to adjust for irregularities regarding age and sex in the local population. Applying a comparability factor of 1.03 to the crude birth rate of 16.6, the adjusted rate becomes 17.1 which is exactly the same as that for England and Wales. Similarly a comparability factor of 0.81 applied to the crude death rate makes the adjusted rate 10.2. This is lower than the rate for England and Wales at 11.5.

POPULATION

The population of Newhaven for the last ten years is given below:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Adjusted Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Adjusted Death Rate</u>
1951	7,803	123	100	15.76		12.81	
1952	7,815	140	82	17.91		10.49	
1953	7,832	126	148	16.47		18.89	
1954	7,940	124	113	15.62		14.23	
1955	7,980	118	123	14.79		15.41	
1956	7,960	135	94	16.96		11.81	
1957	8,030	99	105	12.33		13.07	
1958	8,020	121	107	15.09	15.54	13.34	11.47
1959	8,010	103	98	12.86	13.24	12.23	10.03
1960	8,160	136	103	16.66	17.16	12.62	10.22

The increase in population during 1960 was the biggest for many years and it seems likely that the population will continue to rise at a steady rate over the foreseeable future.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No case of maternal mortality occurred in Newhaven during 1960. Only one maternal death has occurred in the area during the last twenty four years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

No infant deaths occurred in 1960 in Newhaven. This is the second year running in which this has happened and it is very gratifying to be able to report this.

BIRTH RATE

The corrected birth rate is exactly the same as that for England and Wales and indicates that the steadily rising birth rate throughout the country also applies in Newhaven.

DEATH RATE

The corrected death rate of 10.2 per 1,000 population was slightly below the national figure of 11.5 - this fact is of no particular significance.

Highest age at death was 98 years
Lowest age at death was 39 years
Average age at death was 73.9 years

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	1	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	6	8	14
Leukemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	2	4
c/f	11	12	23

Causes of death in Newhaven Urban District (Continued)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
B/f	11	12	23
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	9	16
Coronary disease, angina	6	8	14
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2
Other heart disease	7	14	21
Other circulatory disease	2	6	8
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	-	4
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
TOTALS	47	56	103

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

		<u>% of deaths</u>
(1) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system	45	43.7
(Coronary disease accounted for)	14	13.6
(2) Cancer (all sites)	21	20.4
(Cancer of the lung or bronchus accounted for)	4	3.9

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which gives the Council power to remove to suitable premises persons who are not able to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons adequate care and attention.

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

During the period under review the Medical Officer of Health for Newhaven also acted as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Lewes, the Urban District of Seaford and the Rural District of Chailey.

One Public Health Inspector carried out duties in the Urban District of Newhaven.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The provision of the ambulance service is the responsibility of the East Sussex County Council, which has made arrangements for the ambulance to be housed, serviced and maintained by a local commercial garage and for the vehicle to be driven by members of the garage staff.

The area served by the ambulance includes the districts of Newhaven, Peacehaven, Telscombe, Piddinghoe, Tarring Neville and South Highton. In the event of a further call or calls being received before the ambulance has returned from a previous journey, arrangements are in being for the call to be dealt with by other authorities in the area.

The Newhaven ambulance is not available for the transport of infectious disease cases but under the provisions of the Ambulance Scheme vehicles from adjacent ambulance stations can be called upon, if required, for the conveyance of such cases. Arrangements are in being for the disinfection of ambulances so used, together with the disinfection of bedding, clothing etc.

The East Sussex County Council provide facilities for the transport of tuberculosis patients.

4. HOSPITALS.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ministry of Health is responsible for the provision of hospital accommodation which, in this area, was materially the same as in previous years.

5. NURSING IN THE HOME.

As in previous years, the East Sussex County Council, as empowered by Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, has arranged for this service to be provided by the East Sussex County Nursing Association through the Lewes and District Nursing Association.

6. CLINICS.

The Minor Ailments Clinics have been held at the Schools as previously and immunisation clinics have also been held monthly in the town.

7. PROVISION FOR DEALING WITH THE NEEDS OF THE MENTALLY DISORDERED.

Under the provisions of the Mental Health Act, 1959, the East Sussex County Council makes provision for dealing with the needs of the mentally disordered. The provision of care in psychiatric hospitals is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

SECTION III

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The District has two sources of water supply.

(a) From the Mid Sussex Water Company which obtains water from a well sunk into the chalk at Poverty Bottom.

(b) From the British Railways' Well at Denton. This supply is only provided for four houses and two hotels, viz. 1 - 4 Denton Terrace, The Railway and Harbour Hotels.

2. HOUSING.

Eight Council flatlets for the housing of elderly people were completed during the year. Forty-three private houses were completed during the same period.

The Council, at the end of 1960, owned 566 houses and flats.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

All the premises in the district are provided with closets connected with the sewer with the following exceptions:-

<u>Premises with cesspools</u>	
West Pier	2
Court Farm Road	19
Harbour Heights Estate .	46
Added Area	251
Lewes Road	8

<u>Premises with earth closets</u>	
New Road	15
Denton Village	8

The sewerage scheme serving the Denton, Mount Pleasant, New Road and Railway Road areas on the East side of the river was sufficiently advanced in the later months of the year to allow premises previously served by cesspools to be connected. By the end of the year fifty of the three hundred and one cesspools had been disconnected.

4. SCAVENGING.

A weekly collection of refuse was made from all premises in the area which were within fifty yards of a reasonably accessible road. House refuse was disposed of by the Bradford Tipping System, buried daily on the Council's refuse tip on Denton Island. This system of disposal has proved to be satisfactory

5. The following is a list of the number and nature of inspections carried out during the year by your Public Health Inspector:-

<u>Housing:</u>	Inspections under the Public Health Acts	41
	Visits under the Public Health Acts	50
	Inspections under the Housing Acts	107
	Visits under the Housing Acts	78

SECTION III (Continued)

Infectious Diseases:

Enquiries	3
Disinfections	3

General Sanitation:

Ditches	20
Drainage	57
Stable and piggeries	21
Fried fish shops	44
Factories and workshops	28
Bakehouses	28
Public conveniences	63
Refuse collection	45
Refuse disposal	11
Rats and mice	44
Shops	43
Tents, vans and camping sites	92
Miscellaneous visits	93

Meat and Food Inspections:

Butchers	61
Fishmongers	42
Grocers	32
Dairies	47
Ice cream premises	44
Restaurants	50
Food Hygiene Regulations	61

6. INSPECTIONS OF SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Shops and offices were regularly inspected and, with the exception of minor items, were found to be satisfactory.

7. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of houses infested -

Council houses	-
Other houses	-

8. PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

(a) Clean Food Byelaws are in force, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(b) Dairies. During the year the Public Health Inspector made forty seven inspections. There are seventeen retailers in the district registered for the sale of milk.

(c) Slaughter of Animals. There are no slaughterhouses in the district. Fresh meat is obtained principally from slaughterhouses and markets in Brighton and Chailey. There are two licenced slaughtermen in the District.

(d) Milk Supply. The premises from which milk is supplied to the District retail received special attention.

(e) Other Foods: All premises where food is prepared for sale were inspected regularly and their condition proved to be reasonably satisfactory except for some minor details which were made good on verbal or informal notice.

SECTION III (Continued)

9. UNSOOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unsound and were condemned and suitably disposed of:-

	TONS.	GWT.	QTRS.	LBS.
Meat (Homekilled and Imported) ...			2	19
Meat (Tinned - various)	1		1	12
Bacon and Ham				11
Fish (Wet)		1	1	8
Vegetables (Fresh)	1	10	2	0
Vegetables (Tinned)				14
Fruit (Tinned - various).....			2	8
Various				24
TOTAL ...	1	14	3	12

10. FACTORIES ACT, 1937/1959.

In the Urban District of Newhaven there are five factories on the Register in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the above Acts are enforced and forty four in which Section 7 only is enforced.

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector)

PREMISES	NUMBER ON REGISTER.	INSPECTIONS	WRITTEN NOTICE.	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	5	4	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	36	22	1..	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding out-workers premises)	8	2	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	49	28	1..	Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1937/1959 (Continued)

2. Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS	FOUND	REMEDIED	REFERRED TO H.M, INSPECTOR	REFERRED BY H.M. INSPECTOR	NO. OF CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) Insufficient.	1	1	-	1	-
Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	1	-	1	-

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Only nine cases of infectious disease were notified in Newhaven during 1960. The details were as follows:-

DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
Measles	4	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	-

The following figures relating to Vaccination and Immunisation were supplied by the East Sussex County Council

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

	AGE at date of final injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection (as regards B)			
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	Total
A. NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF PRIMARY IMMUNISATION IN THE AUTHORITY'S AREA (Including temporary residents) DURING 1960.	115	10	4	129
B. NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED A SECONDARY (REINFORCING) INJECTION (i.e. subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) DURING 1960.	-	8	589	597

Since immunisation was first introduced there has been a persistent and dramatic fall in the number of cases of diphtheria and also in the number of deaths from diphtheria. This fall continued until a year or two ago and it now appears that diphtheria is on the increase once again. I cannot urge parents too strongly to ensure that their children are protected against this disease since almost all the cases and deaths occur amongst non-immunised children. It has become all too common to regard diphtheria as a dying disease and to think that because it is no longer prevalent, there is no need to have children immunised. This is a very dangerous practise and every child should be immunised during infancy and again at the start of school life.

SECTION IV

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases (Continued)

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

	AGE at date of final injection		
	0 - 4	5 - 14	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE COMPLETED A PRIMARY COURSE (normally three injections) OF PERTUSSIS VACCINE (singly or in combination) IN THE AUTHORITY'S AREA DURING THE YEAR 1960.	121	4	125

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following persons were vaccinated or revaccinated against smallpox in 1960.

AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION	UNDER 1 YR.	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 +	TOTAL
Number vaccinated	91	3	1	1	5	101
Number revaccinated	-	-	-	6	16	22

The vaccination rate for babies under one year = 67% approximately. Although this rate is higher than for many parts of the country, nevertheless one child in three is still unprotected against smallpox. Parents are urged to see that their children are protected against smallpox by vaccination particularly during the first year of life when reactions to vaccination are minimal.

SECTION V

TUBERCULOSIS

In 1960, six new cases of tuberculosis were notified amongst Newhaven residents and in addition, three cases were notified amongst people coming to live in the area. There were two deaths from tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1960

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 +	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	5	-	-	1	1	1	-	-

NUMBER OF CASES ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1960.

MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
51	1	42	6	100
Whereas at 31st December, 1959, the number of cases on the register was -				
47	3	43	6	99

